

# Defense *advocate*

## *Va. Reps Work to Keep Our Carriers*

Virginia Representatives Rob Wittman (1<sup>st</sup> District), Thelma Drake (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Bobby Scott (3<sup>rd</sup> District) and Randy Forbes (4<sup>th</sup> District) met with Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter at Old Dominion University on October 10 to discuss the future of aircraft carrier homeporting. In question is the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for Naval Station Mayport, Fla., which will identify a preferred action for the Jacksonville-area base out of 13 possible options. The options range from making no changes at Mayport to upgrading the base's port to accommodate a nuclear powered carrier, one that otherwise would be at Norfolk. The study was driven by the 2007 decommissioning of Mayport's only carrier, the *USS John F. Kennedy*, the last non-nuclear powered U.S. carrier.

The Virginia representatives asked the Navy to slow down the decision making process and to look at the true economic costs to both Norfolk and Mayport should a carrier be required to move. By Navy estimates, such a move would require around \$500 million in upgrades to Mayport, money that would be taken from other Navy programs including ship building and maintenance. The cost would be great for Virginia, too, as thousands of jobs would leave Norfolk.



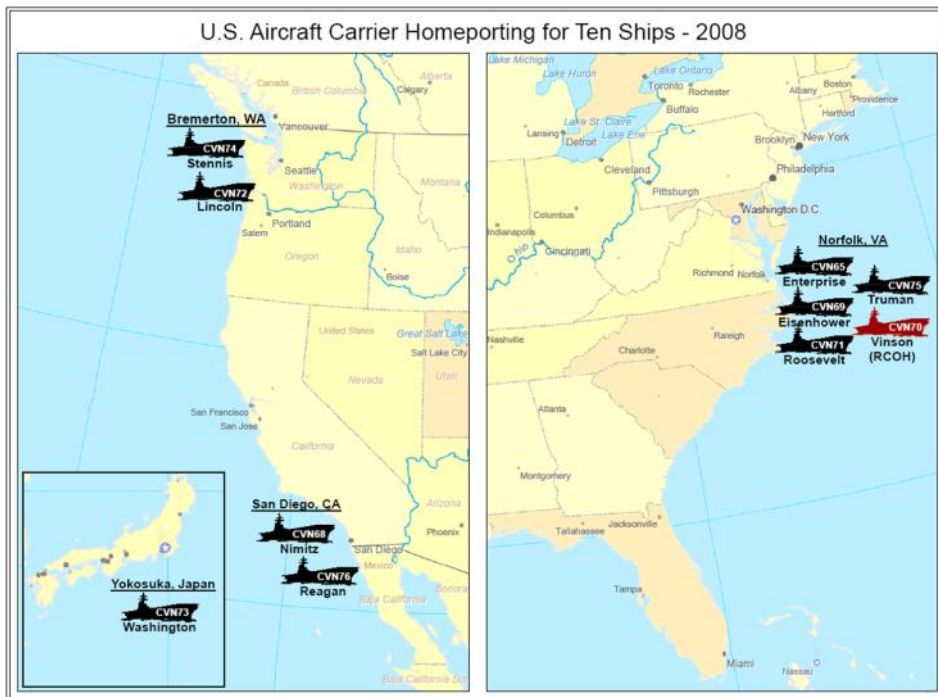
The Hon. Donald C. Winter,  
74th Secretary of the Navy.  
U.S. Navy photo.

Below: Current distribution of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. The *USS Carl Vinson*, shown in red, is undergoing midlife Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) at Northrop-Grumman's Newport News Shipyard, and will be homeported in San Diego upon completion in 2010.

Graphic courtesy of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

"We have significant concern about this because there appears to be no way at all that we can possibly save any money making this move," says Congressman Bobby Scott.

The draft EIS is expected on November 21. A 30-day public comment period will follow, after which Secretary Winter will make a final decision.



## *Coming Events*

**November 6 & 7**

**Virginia Wounded Warrior Summit**  
Fishersville, Va.  
Contact: Martha Mead, (804) 382-0421/  
[martha.mead@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:martha.mead@dvs.virginia.gov)

**November 20**

**Fort Monroe FADA Meeting**  
Fort Monroe, Va.  
Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778

**December 8**

**Fort Monroe FADA Meeting**  
Fort Monroe, Va.  
Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778



A soldier carries a SUGV during training at Fort Bliss, Texas. The portable reconnaissance robot is being developed by Massachusetts based iRobot. The SUGV is one part of the Army's Future Combat System, which also includes unmanned aerial and ground vehicles and advanced communications and networking capabilities.

## 2009 Defense Authorization Act

On October 14 President Bush signed a \$531.4 billion defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2009. Public Law 110-417 passed both the House and Senate in September, with full support of the Virginia delegation.

Highlights include:

- A 3.9 percent military pay raise
- \$68.6 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Full funding (\$3.6 billion) for the Army's Future Combat System
- One Zumwalt-class DDG destroyer (making three funded)
- Two LPD-17 amphibious transport docking ships
- Two Navy cargo ships
- One Virginia-class sub
- \$830 million for the AF in-flight tanker project
- 20 F-22 Raptors
- Six C-17 cargo planes

## New VNDIA Directors: Welcome Aboard!

### Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

Dr. Moore is President of Virginia State University and a past Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He brings to the VNDIA board more than 35 years of administrative and fiscal management experience gained both in the public and private sectors.

Dr. Moore received a BS from Pennsylvania State University and an MBA from the Katz Business School at the University of Pittsburgh.



### Mr. Jeff B. Franzen

Mr. Franzen is Mid-Atlantic Executive Vice President of Lincoln Property Company. Since 1985 Mr. Franzen has been responsible for operations for Lincoln's Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, including Navy and Marine family housing in the Quantico, Norfolk, Annapolis and Virginia Beach areas.

Mr. Franzen received a BBA from Southern Methodist University and an MBA from the University of Dallas.



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## Shipyard-area Bridge to Close

On October 14 the Chesapeake City Council voted unanimously to close the Jordan Bridge effective November 8, citing safety concerns. The bridge has crossed the Elizabeth River and connected Chesapeake and Portsmouth since 1928, but recent inspections show that \$4 million in repairs are needed, with another \$13 million required over the next decade.

The closure is of concern to Portsmouth's Norfolk Navy Shipyard as it is the primary commuter route for many of the yard's workers. Since the decision, Chesapeake has secured \$500,000 in regional transportation funds to provide express commuter bus service to downtown Portsmouth, where riders will be able to catch another bus to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Other mass transit options are being explored.

